



Greetings fellow South Carolinians! I hope this finds you, your family and friends in good health and spirit. We have recently completed a very busy few weeks in the U.S. House of Representatives. So far we have passed a responsible wartime budget, a welfare reform bill that builds upon the successful reforms of 1996, and provided tax relief for our troops and their families.

Our American military has done an outstanding job during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and they deserve our support along with their families. We should also not forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice, such as Sgt. George E. Buggs of Barnwell, S.C. A member of the United States Army, Sgt. Buggs was one of nine fallen soldiers discovered during the rescue of Pfc. Jessica Lynch. Although the cause of death remains unknown, his spirit will live on as a symbol of true heroism.

With the war quickly coming to a close, I am so happy to see the outpouring of patriotism in our communities. Our country has been successful in stopping the threat of Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction thus freeing the Iraqi people and helping to rebuild their country for a brighter future.

As we know, a nation's future is dependent on providing for the welfare of our children, which is why I am so pleased to announce that South Carolina was the only state to recently be awarded \$88 million in federal grant funding for the *Reading First* program. *Reading First* is part of President Bush's *Leave No Child Behind* legislation, based upon intensive training for over 25,000 South Carolina teachers. It is our responsibility to make certain that every child can read, and with these funds, thousands of children in the Palmetto State will be ensured the opportunity to learn.

As always, my two most important goals as your representative in Congress are **accessibility** and **accountability**. I have had the opportunity to meet with many of you while I travel the state every weekend and during the April Congressional recess. I encourage each of you to contact me with your views and concerns, and I have provided many ways for you to do so. You can meet with me, or a highly qualified staff member, in either our Columbia or Beaufort offices. Also, realizing it is difficult for some to travel, our staff holds constituent hours in nearly every part of the district on a monthly basis. You may obtain the time and location listings for these meetings from our website [www.house.gov/joewilson](http://www.house.gov/joewilson), or call 803-939-0041.

If you do visit our website, you will notice it has been freshly redesigned to better help you. You will find the latest news, ways to contact me, and information on government agencies and available grants. We also post pictures of Second District residents who visit the Capitol, so go to the website and look for your picture!

If you have not visited the nation's Capitol yet, now is a wonderful time to do so. Our staff would be happy to arrange tours of federal buildings including The White House, which has resumed limited tours for school, youth, military and veteran's groups.

It is an honor to represent the people of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, and if I may ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

---

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the Weekly or Monthly Reviews, you may subscribe via our website at [www.house.gov/joewilson](http://www.house.gov/joewilson) or fax your request to 202/ 225-2455.